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## **REP. ESHOO'S STATEMENT ON THE *DARFUR PEACE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2005***

*October 20, 2005* - I'm proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 3127, the *Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2005*.

As you know, Western Sudan has a history of intense ethnic and religious violence that has marked the more than 20-year Sudanese civil war. Due to new disputes over territorial issues and the reigning government's desire to implement Islamic law and exert their authority over the nation as they attempt to realize Sudan's vast potential for oil production, an escalating revolt in the Darfur region has now created a critical humanitarian crisis. Over the last two years an estimated 1.9 million people have been displaced and more than 213,000 people forced into neighboring Chad. While there are no reliable estimates of the number of people killed as a result of the conflict, some observers project that it could be as high as 300,000.

During the last Congress, I was proud to cosponsor H. Con. Res. 403, which condemned the government-sponsored attacks on innocent civilians in Darfur and demanded that they stop immediately. I'm pleased to say that this legislation was brought to the floor of the House on May 18, 2004, and passed by a vote of 360-1. Since then, in June 2004, I voted for and the House passed H.R. 4613, the *FY2005 Department of Defense Appropriations Act*, legislation which, among other things, declares the atrocities occurring in Darfur as "genocide". The Senate affirmed this decision, and the Bush Administration reached the same conclusion in September 2004.

Despite these efforts, the crisis in Darfur persists, and that's why I'm a cosponsor of H.R. 3127. This legislation goes a step further by going after the individuals and their associates, both within and outside the Sudanese Government, that are responsible for the ongoing bloodshed. It directs the President to seize the assets of and refuse future visas to any individual (and family member) responsible for acts of genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity in Sudan. It also forbids any U.S. port from accepting any goods or cargo from Sudanese ships should the Sudanese Government continue to fail to take steps to resolve the crisis. Finally, to give military protection for victims on the ground, H.R. 3127 authorizes the President to provide assistance to reinforce the deployment and operations of an expanded African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), and directs the President to instruct the U.S. Permanent Representative to NATO to advocate reinforcement of AMIS, upon request of the African Union.

Too many times in the past century the world has stood by while the greatest crimes known to man were carried out. Whether in Armenia, the German concentration camps, the killing fields of Cambodia, or the red clay hills of Rwanda, the world's collective horror registered too late, and we're haunted by the failure to act sooner. H.R. 3127 is important legislation that declares that America will not stand idly by once again and calls for real action against the perpetrators of crimes against humanity in Darfur, Sudan. H.R. 3127 has been referred to the House International Relations Committee. I'll continue to do everything I can to see that it's passed by the Congress.